

## THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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## FOOLING THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME

The great Abraham Lincoln once said that God must have loved the common people for he made so many of them—and these self same common people will of course be in full sympathy and accord with the present leadership which has come to suspect that these self same common people are eating too much "bread and butter," wearing too much clothing, burning too much fuel, building too many homes, enjoying altogether too much of the comfort and pleasure that life affords. They are getting more of the good things of life than is good for them, or good for the rest of the country—for that fortunate and favored segment of the population which it is the peculiar province of the republican party to represent. They must learn to do with less, to do without. Since they will not learn of their own volition, why not use the tax club as a coercive measure?

It is now our province to wonder if the defenders of this procedure have also noticed that Washington dispatch telling that "statisticians for the government have labored hard to bring the relative figures as to military expenditures and the amounts spent by the people of the country for amusements and minor luxuries out so sharply that their significance can be seen at a glance."

The purpose is obvious. If the people would do without "amusements and minor luxuries" which they really do not need, which is gross extravagance, there would be so much more money available for them to pay in taxes to the government.

The "statisticians for the government" tell us, very severely, that while we are complaining about "militarism" we spent last year only 418 million dollars for the army, while at the same time we, the prodigal and foolish and self-indulgent people, spent \$34 millions for soda and confections, \$59 millions for perfume, jewelry, silk stockings and other articles of personal adornment, \$97 millions for baseball, theaters, concerts, etc., and 1,151 millions for tobacco.

It makes the "statisticians for the government" sick at heart. Why should the common people be left to regale themselves with lemon pop and peppermints? Why should the women adorn themselves? What right, really, has a day laborer to the solace of My Lady Nicotine? Why should clerks and working girls be permitted, unchallenged of government, to spend money for the magic and mystery and romance of theaters and movies that take them out of their hard every day lives? What good is perfume, anyhow, and as for silk stockings, isn't wool ever so much warmer?

Presently, perhaps, we shall be told brutally that the province of the common people is to work hard and produce largely, but to consume only enough to keep them strong enough to do more work. The difference between large production and small consumption they should save and turn over to be used by those who know ever so much better than they how to get the most out of money and wealth.

The prophets of normalcy are in the saddle. They are having the time of their lives. Their audacity is such as to make Mark Hanna and Nelson W. Aldrich turn over in their graves. But we wonder if they ever stop to think that there is another election day coming, when some 40,000,000 voters, at least 32,000,000 of them common people will meet them in battle array.

## COMMERCIAL WAR PROFITS

Even while the great Washington conference is on in full blast, for the limitation of armaments, numerous of these self-styled "experts" are spreading broadcast the "opinion" that the failure of this conference means inevitably war between the United States and Japan. It would be the finest kind of policy for the people who are to take part in this conference to suspend all other operations until they find out just who it is that backs this sort of propaganda.

Who says war? Who in either the United States or in Japan wants war? What could either nation gain by such an enterprise?

Does anybody answer that the people of the United States have commercial interests in Asia that are like-

ly to be interfered with by the ambitions of Japan? Do we not engage in commerce for profit? Haven't we sense enough to learn from experiences of the past seven years what are the profits of war?

The World Peace Foundation has been figuring up some of those profits. Not all of them; just a few. The lists are in number of twelve figures each. Nobody can imagine the meaning of them. Here is one sentence: "It may roughly be said that \$350,000,000,000 is the financial handicap that the world has taken on since 1914." Fine showing, isn't it?

"The burden of this debt," the report continues, "brings it about that every belligerent has such staggering taxation as to hamper all the processes of national and individual life. For the first time in history, a nation, dismembered Austria, has gone into the hands of a receiver. Moreover, eleven out of twelve of the European states, even with tremendous taxation, are spending far beyond their incomes and three out of four countries in the world are unable to raise the taxes to meet their running expenses."

This is merely a partial financial summary. It by no means represents total losses.

And now they are talking that commercial competition may drag the United States into war with Japan. There is supposed to be something in Manchuria that the people of Japan are trying to get away from us. Just as a matter of good business judgment, in view of what we have seen of the profits of war, wouldn't it pay better for us to buy Manchuria and present it to Japan than to go to war with Japan over any question of commerce which might arise in the relations of the two countries in Manchuria?

We would have at least gained something tangible by our gift to the Asiatic peoples.

## THE MURDEROUS AUTO SPEEDER

The two reckless exhibitions of speed crazed auto drivers on Tuesday added another chapter to St. Joseph's altogether too long list of accidents caused by murderous inclined speedsters and it may soon be necessary for Chief MacDonald to issue an order to his khaki's to deal with speeders as he has ordered with hold-up artists.

In law a man is held responsible for the natural consequences of his own acts. The natural consequence of speeding on crowded city streets is the maiming and killing of innocent men, women and children, on foot or in other vehicles, who are unable to get out of the way in time to save themselves.

The fast, careless, reckless driver may not have murder in his heart. But he is wickedly indifferent to the fact that he is the agent of death and agony. He is criminally reckless, and he is, and should be held, criminally responsible.

In dispensing justice to people of this kind St. Joseph's magistrates have been and are unduly lenient. They are falling to dispense justice, failing to protect human life, when they let the "speeding murderers" go with a small fine and an admonition to be more careful. The other day a driver was merely fined for having driven rapidly on the wrong side of a street car and knocking down a pedestrian.

The police, least with crime and violence and vice on all hands, cannot do it all. They can do very little, in fact, unless the courts support them and put a wholesome fear of the law into the hearts of rash drivers. But neither can the courts do it all. Guilt is personal, and the cure for this mania for speed must be personal. Every man and woman who drives an automobile must know that guilt, moral as well as legal, attends speeding; that the death of an innocent person may, at any moment, be the result. Every such driver must understand that he is doing a shameful and wicked thing. And an aroused and healthy public sentiment should brand it, directly and personally, as wicked and shameful.

There is nothing "smart" about this offense, nothing admirable, nothing fine. It is folly, ugly and sinful. Put it up to yourself if the fault is yours. Put it up to your neighbor, your friend, if the fault is his. A sense of personal responsibility is called for, and with it a sense of righteous moral indignation.

## ONE WAY TO HELP STOP WARS

"Abandon the battleship! Let it be agreed that all battleships, all fighting ships of any type over 15,000 tons displacement, all guns over six-inch caliber, and all submarines, be at once scrapped and for the future forbidden. The problem would be solved, and there is no other complete solution. Such a solution would be to the advantage of small states, but need not finally alter the relative power of large ones."

Was it a visionary—a pacifist—or an ignorant theorist who made the above assertion—

Not by any means—it was a well-

known retired admiral of the American navy—Admiral Bowles.

And he talks sense—at least he talks in the right direction.

Everybody remembers how it has been in the past, and how it will be again unless the world returns to sanity and saves itself from the approaching brink of disaster.

One nation builds a bigger battleship than any other nation has, costing, say, \$15,000,000.

Promptly another nation builds a battleship still bigger, costing \$20,000,000. Whereupon the first nation makes its first attempt of little use by getting up a still bigger battleship, spending \$25,000,000 on it. Now they are building them at a cost of \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000, with \$2,000,000 a year to keep them up for the few years before they are antiquated and ready for the scrapheap.

And a cheap torpedo from a cheap submarine, or a cheap bomb from a cheap airplane, can blow any one of them to kingdom come in two minutes!

Admiral Bowles declares that this plan would make it unnecessary to increase the Panama canal locks from 110 feet in width to a possible 150 feet to accommodate the growing size of battleships. He declares, still more to the point, that it would decrease naval expenditures by 75 per cent, besides greatly reducing the cost of coast defenses.

Why not? Has anybody a better plan?

Of course if the nations were really wise, they would agree to put the limitation even lower than Admiral Bowles puts it. And for that matter, it would be far more sensible to go back to the ancient way of letting single champions fight out the issues between conflicting nations than it is to go on with preparations that threaten to make it possible to wipe out cities, nations and peoples.

And as for keeping up the competition in building big battleships, if an individual spent his money so foolishly his relatives would have a guardian appointed for him forthwith.

## KEEP THE GRAY OUT OF YOUR HEART

The monkey glands of 1921 are the latest phantasy to be embraced by men who no longer seek the fabled fountain of Ponce de Leon, but who still seek for the youth giving fountain. They know that the Spaniard's fountain does not exist and they fail to find the fount of perpetual youth which many men have found without seeking. This does exist, but it isn't one which will restore the bloom to the faded cheek and new vigor to the palsied limb. He who would find it must seek within himself. He must find it as Francis Wilson, 67 years old and still the funmaker of forty years, has found it.

"I have not been able to keep the gray out of my hair," he says, "but I have kept it out of my heart."

That was youth speaking, telling us the secret of its perpetual existence. Patrons of the drama, not only those who remember the Joyous humor of the Francis Wilson of a bygone generation, but those who saw him for the first time, knew that he was speaking truth. The gray, they felt, will never be able to enter into that genial heart.

How many men of 67 can say, "I have kept the gray out of my heart?" How many of the youth of today are shaping a course which is excluding the gray from their hearts? They who are, are they who will still be young at 67. Whiter hair, wrinkled cheeks, rheumy eyes and trembling legs, what are they? Surely not the signs of age. They are the honorable scars of man's conflict with the passing years, but they do not denote the passing of youth. Youth is not a matter which affects flesh and blood and bone. It is in the heart of man and it rests with each individual whether it shall stay there or whether crabbled age shall crowd it out.

It is hate and fear and distrust which bring gray into the heart and drive youth out. Once driven out its return can be accomplished only by a miracle. It is faith and hope and love that build a barricade against the gray and keep youth in.

## THE REVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

They had the enrollment figures to prove it—was the claim of the republican managers a year ago that New York had become a republican city.

Now there is no doubt but that New York was a republican city in 1920, but in spite of that enrollment it is not a republican city in 1921. Dismissing Mayor Hylan's unprecedented plurality, which was due to various causes, Townsend Scudder, the democratic candidate for judge of the court of appeals, had a plurality within the greater city of 261,075. No aggressive campaign was made in his behalf. Many democratic lawyers supported his republican opponent and there is nothing to indicate that Mr. Scudder received any organization republican votes. His plurality may be accepted, therefore, as the

democratic plurality in New York city in Tuesday's election.

This is not an isolated instance of the swing of the political pendulum away from the republican majorities of 1920. Not only did the democrats gain nineteen seats in the assembly, but they elected a mayor in Albany for the first time in twenty-two years, and Albany is popularly regarded as the private political property of William Barnes. In Syracuse, which is Governor Miller's home town, they elected a mayor for the first time in twenty years. George R. Lunn was again elected mayor of Schenectady, and most up-state towns showed an increased democratic vote as compared with the republican vote.

The democratic swing in municipal elections extended from Bridgeport, Conn., to Ohio and Indiana. Even Mr. Harding's town of Marion chose a democratic mayor. Too much might be inferred in a partisan way from the results of city campaigns if it were not for the remarkable democratic revival in Maryland and Kentucky. In Virginia, where there were strong republican hopes of electing a governor on a "white man's ticket," the democratic candidate had an enormous majority. It was hinted at the time of President Harding's Birmingham speech on the negro question that his real object was to influence the Virginia campaign. If that be true the speech was a dismal failure.

## WHAT THE FARMER CANNOT SEE

The New York Times from the day of its inception has always faithfully and well served the money interests of the East—even though at some times it has proven a difficult job—but it has never flinched in its allegiance and just now is devoting its energies assuring its readers that the agricultural "bloc" in the senate—which has been working with the democratic minority to curb the efforts of the republican party to restore Wall street to the saddle—is nothing more than an upstart crowd, a little waterspout on the sea which will disappear right shortly, "apud venientem."

The Times quite soundly berates the "bloc," made up of senators from the great western agricultural states, as one would a most mischievous and bothersome child. The west, it declares, has always bothered the east at times, but it continues to say—reassuring eastern capital—that the bothersome influence has always been put down; the boy spanked and put to bed.

"This is not a country salubrious for class movements," says the Times, "whether agrarian, laborite or capitalist." That's nice language and it's true besides.

That is just what the farmers of the west would tell the Times. But these farmers, with the democratic party, are unable to see how it is possible to repeal, for instance, all of the taxes on exorbitant profits as the republican party is now so busily engaged in doing, thereby creating large holes in the treasury's funds for the next year which must be filled by higher taxes on the man with smaller profits or the farmer with no profits at all, and still to declare that there is no "class movement."

The farmer wants a fair deal, that is all. He wants to live but he believes in the other end of that philosophy and he wants to live himself.

He believes that high taxes are bad things wherever they are imposed but he also believes that since there is no intention to quit imposing them, or no possibility of reducing them, they should be imposed on the man who makes a profit of from 15 to 300 per cent on his investment rather than on the fellow who makes no profits at all or who incurs a loss.

The agricultural "bloc" is made up of republicans. Some of them were elected last fall on the same promise upon which all others of the party were elected. That promise was relief from excessive taxation and legislation which would assist in the return of profits.

The farmers of the west who elected office-holders on this promise see that they have made a mistake. But they do appreciate, at least, the attempt upon the part of some of their representatives to throw aside party alignment and to vote with the democrats against these atrocious measures.

And without these farmers of the west, the east could not get very far politically, as was demonstrated in 1916. Nor could it get very far economically if the farmers, the source of all ultimate production, were forced out of business.

## DENBY'S TRITE ORDER

Possibly some people may object and say that it is not Christianlike or civilized to order people to kill, but certainly every thinking man who has the welfare of his country at heart will not fail to commend Secretary Denby, who the other day did not mince words when he sent his message to the one thousand marines who had been detailed from Quantico, Va., to guard United States mails. "There

is no compromise in this battle with bandits," he said. "If two marines, guarding a mail car, for example, are suddenly attacked by a robber, neither must hold up his hands, but both must begin shooting at once. One may be killed, but the other will get the robber and save the mail. You must be brave, as you always are. Keep your weapons in hand and, if attacked, shoot and shoot to kill."

This is also the advice to guards of the mails everywhere. The government proposes to put a stop to holding up the mails with losses that have but recently been running into millions of dollars in value. The postoffice of St. Joseph, and the mail vehicles that transport valuable mail to the railway stations, are now guarded, as are the mail trains in and out of St. Joseph carrying registered mail of extraordinary value.

If Secretary Denby's instructions are taken literally, and if attempted robberies continue, there are fair chances that some robber will cry "hold up your hands" in vain, for United States marines, and other former service men, from the ranks of whom many of the guards are selected, don't know how to hold up their hands. But they do know how to shoot, and to shoot to kill, as evidenced by experiences still fresh in their memories.

William Washington, a negro, stuck his knife in George McClure's neck, and then ran, leaving the knife fast in the wound. When McClure jerked the knife out, he bled to death. Washington escaped hanging by pleading guilty to manslaughter, and now he has applied to the parole board for a parole, using the excuse that McClure when he withdrew the knife, killed himself. It is turning men loose on such flimsy excuses that promotes mob action.

It is not to be wondered at that Attorney Plumb of the railroad brotherhoods wants to declare the railroads bankrupt and have them taken over by the government. There was never a time in history where the employees exploited the railroads for their personal benefit and gain, such as when the government had them in charge.

City Assessor Boder, explaining the threatened deficit in city personal property taxes, says that "with a higher valuation a lower levy could be made and the taxes would be about the same." What difference does it make about higher or lower valuation, if the amount of taxes collected under either is the same?

If the quality of that \$12,000 in oil stock that a thief stole from the Rev. Ballenger of Shenandoah, Ia., at the Union Station Sunday, is no better than that we have acquired at diverse and sundry times, he would be far better off had he allowed the thief to disappoint himself with it, instead of having him arrested.

The present day labor leader is going up in all sorts of smoke as he contemplates the wage adjustments that the men he previously "lived fat from" are making direct with the employers, and not even calling on him. His meal ticket is gone.

Possibly some of the heated language that Gov. E. Mont Reilly of Porto Rico is bringing here to tell to the president, is what caused that fire in the hold of the ship that brought the Kansas City governor of Porto Rico to this country.

It still requires but four pounds of wool to make a full sized man a complete suit of clothes and this wool still sells for 21 cents per pound—yet your clothing dealer wants from \$40 to \$75 for a suit of clothes. Why?

Isn't it about time that the school board put a stop to this promiscuous advertising that is pulled off each week in the school houses by various schemers who get at the parents of the scholars in this way?

Look for another hike in the price of gasoline. Uncle Jawn D. has been notified that he must pay income tax on the distribution of Ohio Oil Co., and Pralir Oil & Gas Co. stock to stockholders.

Clyde Marvin, who escaped the pen here when he held up the Colonial theater last summer, on a mighty gauzy alibi, is now under arrest at St. Louis for two hold-ups. The law was weak here.

It was a real shame to raid garden-er Myers' pumpkin patch and get all of his saved-up hootch out from under his pumpkins just so short a time before Thanksgiving.

Without a doubt bankrupt Europe would like the United States to be bankers for that "busted section"—but not just now, Minerva, will we serve you.

It only required a wedge shaped strip of ground reaching from the

Iowa line to a point ten miles south of the Missouri river to make that newly created Third district safely gop—but the boys got 'er. Oh no! not by a gerrymander! Heaven forbid.

It is not customary to wish merchants and dealers bad luck, but if the profiteers here have their fingers burned handling the overcharge exacted from the consumer, we would shew few alkalines.

When a few yeggmen and "hold-uppers" bite the dust in St. Joseph from well directed police revolvers, then will there be a stop to the wholesale robbing now going on—and not before.

The Reed-Gabbert suit came near destroying the motion picture business in St. Joseph this week. Judge Vorles' court was too strong an attraction for the movies to compete with.

We would just like to know how the fellow who lost his pocket book in the alley at the rear of the Y. M. C. A. building had so much real nerve as to advertise it.

Russia wants us to lend her \$100,000,000. As the way she paid us that \$70,000,000 borrowed when the war broke out is not forgotten, the chances are slim.

If you have turkey hash today, stick out your chest and let the neighbors know. The person who could pay 50 cents per pound for turkey is some nobob.

If the supreme court does not knock out that gop senatorial redistricting gerrymander, there is no balm in Oiland—or words to that effect.

There are now three drives going on in St. Joseph—and the average taxpayer has not as yet found where his tax money is coming from.

If President Harding eats those dill pickles sent him by an ardent Missouri admirer, there is no telling what he may do next.

Why not begin to do that Christmas shopping now? St. Joseph's merchants have the goods and they always make the prices right.

Somehow or other we cannot reconcile ourselves to this cool substitute for our Italian climate.

When Japan is through with China, the latter will look like your turkey skeleton looks today.

## What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

Got Out of Hand a Little  
Marion, O., getting a little out of hand in the absence of its foremost citizen, went Democratic Tuesday.—Kansas City Times.

And In Every Other Place  
There is no one in Maryville who enjoys hearing your troubles excepting the lawyers and they get pay for it.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

But They Should Not  
There are probably some women still wondering why President Harding failed to name their husbands as experts on unemployment.—Platte County Landmark.

And Even in Hopkins  
Even in Hopkins, it might not come amiss to emphasize the fact that chickens are supposed to crow at dawn instead of coming home to roost.—Hopkins Journal.

Almost Impossible Not to Comment  
A marriage license was issued in St. Joseph yesterday to John Wesley Corcoran of Conception Junction and Miss Vera L. Legg of St. Joseph.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

First Good Thing It Did  
The Missouri Public Service Commission has at length found that the war is over. It has removed the 50 cent service charge added monthly to the gas bills of Springfield consumers.—Henry County Democrat.

They Are After Monty  
E. Mont Reilly of Kansas City, who was big enough to get the appointment as governor of Porto Rico from President Harding, doesn't seem to be big enough to hold the job. At least the Porto Ricans do not think so.—Platte County Landmark.

Takes Care of the Corporations  
The Missouri Public Utilities Commission continues to serve the big corporations rather than the people who created the commission. No application for higher rates or maintenance of already too high a rate goes un-

heeded. The fight to abolish the commission is certain to be renewed at the first opportunity given and with better chances for success than heretofore.—Glasgow Missourian.

And Jake Gets the Plumb  
Jake Babler, big Republican boss, is reported to be in Washington and the candidates for place are wondering what he is up to. He is probably advising Senator Spencer on Republican needs in Missouri, to all of which the senator will lend a willing ear.—Glasgow Missourian.

## Shoot First—Then Inquire

The government's determination to place armed men on mail trains is worth while. Robbing trains has been entirely too easy and it is a matter that should not be handled with gloves. When a man holds up a train the time is past for leniency. A load of buckshot is the best cure for train robbing habit and the best protection against loss of life in future.—Nodaway Democrat-Forum.

## They Want to Lick England

Strange to say many of the returned soldiers from the late war and especially those who were in England for a time are not yet in favor of disarmament. They claim they want to give England a good licking and then disarm. They, for some cause, are greatly displeased with the treatment they received while in England and want a chance to take some of the arrogance out of them.—Moberly Democrat.

## Why Not Investigate It?

An investigation has been called for the Boonville reform school because some poor man who had been sent to this institution was allowed to work on the outside and support a very dependent family. A man sentenced to the penitentiary for murder drives the governor's car and enjoys all the rights of a citizen without the excuse of supporting a family. Why not call an investigation of the penitentiary?—Moberly Democrat.

## Would Have Been No Necessity

Let us not forget, that if we had ratified the treaty and covenant of the League of Nations, there would have been no necessity for this reduction of arms conference now. All questions coming before the Harding conference would have been already in process of settlement and many more. We are for the reduction of armaments just as we were for the League of Nations, and a half of a loaf is undoubtedly better than no bread.—Henry County Democrat.

## Why Should They Wonder?

An express train from San Francisco to Los Angeles recently carried a plain box with a coffin in it and a dead girl. A hearse with the proverbial long-faced undertaker met the train. Later another express train from the same city to the same city carried a fat man with a worried look, but women rained kisses on his flabby cheeks and filled his limousine with flowers. And yet some people wonder why there is seemingly a double standard of morals in this country.—Hopkins Journal.

## Teddy Was the Only One

After Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, and Tom Watson, of Georgia, get through telling the public what they think of the recent speech of President Harding—made at Birmingham, the president will wonder if he really gained any prestige in the South. These two gentlemen are hot on the trail of the republican president of these United States, and they are well able to set before the public the attitude taken by the true Southerner. It takes a Southern man to realize just what the president said when he preached negro equality, social, politic and economic. About the only man that America ever saw that did this and got away with it was Theodore Roosevelt.—Chariton Courier.

## They Cannot Explain the Raise

The visit to Clinton of three different gadding emissaries of the Hyde administration to try to shift the responsibility for high taxes off the shoulders responsible for it, proved a most dismal failure. But it prompts the suggestion that all these fellows are drawing high salaries and liberal expense money for purely political services. The first emissary who came here several weeks ago representing the State Tax Commission is said to be drawing over \$5,000 a year and expenses. And those who met him declare him to be a young man of very mediocre ability. The visit of these agents to apologize for the State Board of Equalization and to try to deceive the people of each county visited by telling the people of that county they are the only ones to complain and their local officers are to blame simply accentuates the belief long entertained by a very great many Missourians that if the State Tax Commission ever had any usefulness it has long outlived it.—Henry County Democrat.